

Polit. Pamph. vol 104

A

WARNING PIECE

FOR

LONDON,

OR,

A Completion of several Prophecies
of the *Old Testament* in these our
Days.

OFFERED

To the Serious Consideration of all His Majesty's
loving Subjects.

By BARNABY BECKWORTH, Lithotomist and Student in
Astrology. K

Φωρ υνδερεαθ ἐρ κωατς ἐ γοτ ινγε ἐ διδλ σλεαγιναι σεισε ιηθ βωθ ις ανδς ἐρ
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Capitulorum Concilii Chachedonenfis. Lib. V.



L O N D O N :

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The Serious Consideration of all His Majesty's
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By BARNABY BLACKWORTH, Librarian and Student in
Theology.

Printed for J. KNOX, at the Sign of the Crown, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, in the Parish of St. Dunstons, in the County of Middlesex, 1733.



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THE INTRODUCTION.

AT a Time when the Age seems over-run with Infidelity and all manner of Corruption, (as our most excellent Diocesan has lamentably bewailed in his elaborate Pastoral Lucubrations) however disagreeable it may be to the present refined Taste to treat of any serious Subject, yet as my Studies have led me to a nearer Acquaintance with Holy Writ, than I dare own every where, I could not help setting forth, as my Abilities permit, some Things which (in the Words of the incomparable 'Squire Budgell) I think highly necessary to be read by every ENGLISHMAN. Should I fail in this my honest Attempt, I trust the Aphorism I shall borrow, on this Occasion, from an eminent Brother Practitioner's Coach-Door, RECTA VELLE, SAT EST, will be my sufficient Apology.

The late tumultuous and outrageous Behaviour of my Fellow-Citizens, has, I doubt not, given deep Concern to all sober-minded Persons, who have any Regard for the Body Politick: There seem to me to be such vitious Humours crept into the Constitution, as requires more than ordinary Skill to get the better of, and were I worthy to be consulted, I fancy I could quickly correct the bilious Juices, and abundant overflowing of the Gall, (our present unhappy Complaint) and this by a different Method than the late learned Dr. Woodward's. The fashionable Distemper, vulgarly term'd the grumbling in the Gizzard, as I am acquainted with the true Causes, I have an infallible Remedy for, and that is the high Operation, which, tho' practised every six Weeks near Hide-Park Corner, in the Road to Paddington, is for Disorders, in my Apprehension, of a less dangerous Tendency, and has not yet been used on proper Subjects. A farther Trial of Lenitives and Emolients, would be, in our Case, operam & oleum perdere, and for this mine Opinion, I have the Authority of HIPPOCRATES, GALEN, DIOSCORIDES, PARACELSUS, and that great Ornament to his Country Dr. DOVER.

These I freely own were my Thoughts, 'till recollecting several Prophecies, which plainly point at the Disorders of the present Times, I then sat me down less disquieted, as well knowing they must be fulfilled. I therefore determined to collect the aforesaid
several

several Prophecies, that I imagine relate to us Sinners; marking how far they are accomplished, and hope they may serve as a Warning for us to avoid greater Judgments, prepared (I fear) to be poured out on so thankless a Generation.

When every Action (tho' never so praise worthy) is construed to be done with some particular View, it may be necessary, I believe, for me to mention one Thing relating to myself, before I conclude this Introduction. I declare then, I have no mercenary Ends, in the publishing these Sheets, purely designed for the Benefit of my Fellow-Subjects; but as a wealthy Tobacconist (a Member of the same Club with me) I find makes it his Business to take away my good Name in the Neighbourhood, by insinuating my Intimacy with some Great Men, I think it incumbent on me to wipe off so notorious an Aspersions. I guess, indeed, from whence his Spleen to me arises, and submit it to the World to judge, with how much Reason. My Friendship for him and his Family, made me one Day (in my Astrological Capacity) hint to him that his youngest Daughter, Miss Rachel, was with Child by the Coachman: I remember, indeed, at that Time he was angry, as if I had been the Father on't; and thus he thinks proper to repay me for my Kindness: But I take this Opportunity of solemnly averring, that I am unknown to any one Man in Power (except my Landlord, who is High Constable this Year) and that what I write now is ex mero motu, without any Expectation or Hope of Reward from any Body whatsoever. Not but were the King, out of his great Goodness, inclined to shew me any Mark of his Favour, I should in Civility accept it, for some particular Reasons best known to myself.

My Wife has likewise told me of a Report spread in our Alley (I wish I knew the Author, but I guess it comes from the same Quarter) that I am soliciting to be his MAJESTY'S ASTRONOMER, at the Observatory in Greenwich: This is just of a Piece with the rest.

The learned Professor there, knows me too well, I am certain, to believe so groundless a Story; and my greatest Concern is, lest it should give so worthy a Friend the least Uneasiness: But I intend suddenly to dispatch a Letter to him, which, I doubt not, will give him abundant Satisfaction, and clear me of any such Intention entirely; and shall content myself, on this Occasion, with an excellent Remark of the late erudite Mr. ADDISON'S, That Scandal is a Tax all Men pay the Publick for being Eminent.

*From my Lodgings, near the Cross-Guns,
in Gun-powder-Alley, Fleet-Street.*

Warning Piece, &c.

TH E late Tumults at Westminster, and Insults on several worthy Members, on Occasion of an intended Excise upon Wine and Tobacco, thereby to gain what is due to the PUBLICK, and ease the LANDED Interest, is too fresh in every one's Memory for me to enter into farther Particulars. I shall then set about what I promised, and endeavour to shew how these Proceedings were foretold by several of the Prophets of old.

I presume it will be granted me, that the true Reason for subjecting the before-mentioned two Commodities ONLY, to the Law of Excise, was occasioned by the Frauds daily committed by the Merchants under the Regulations of the Customs, which, by their Laws, I conceive, with Submission, cannot be prevented. And this the Prophet JEREMIAH, in his xth Chap. Verse 3. positively foresees.

For the CUSTOMS of the People are vain, i. e. don't answer in raising such a Sum of Money to the Nation, as the Duties would amount to, were they collected in a proper Manner.

The Author of ECCLESIASTICUS (a no less inspir'd Writer) plainly gives the Character of our Defrauders, in his xxvith Chap. and 29th Verse; *A Merchant shall hardly keep himself from doing Wrong; and an Huckster shall not be freed from Sin.*

Now in the Original Text, *בזבז*, stands for FACTOR, as well as HUCKSTER, as my ingenious Friend the Hebrew Professor at Cambridge assures me, and therefore certainly alludes to our Tobacco Agents here.

Again, in his xxviiith Chap. he says; *As a Nail sticketh close between the Joinings of the Stones, so doth Sin stick close between buying and selling.*

In the 6th Verse of OBADIA we find, *How are the Things of Esau searched out! how are his hid Things sought up.*

Both too fully verified in the late Mr. Mitford, not to mention many others, who are not dead.

HOSEA likewise in his xiith Chap. Ver. 7. declares thus; *He is a Merchant, the Balances of Deceit are in his Hand, he loveth to oppress.* Evidently foreknowing their Usage of the Virginia Planters, and their *fraudulent Weights*, both *inwards* and *outwards*: Nothing surely can be clearer.

In his 8th Verse of the same Chapter, he likewise foretells the Answers they shall make, in Case of a Detection. *And EPHRAIM said, yet I am become rich, I have found me out Substance: In all my Labours they shall find none Iniquity in me, that were Sin.* That is to say, they make no Conscience of cheating the Publick.

ISAIAH too in his 6th Verse of Chap. the lxvith, foresaw, no doubt, the Behaviour of these Persons, where he mentions, *A Voice of Noise from the CITY---* This, I trust, needs no explaining.

Their *plausible Pretences* to the Multitude, and Persuasions to *Clamour*, were not untold by ZEPHANIAH, Chap. the first, Verse 11th. *Howl ye Inhabitants of MACTESH, for the Merchant People are cut down; all they that bear Silver, are cut off.* Is not *this* what they would have the Nation believe would be the Case, were their *corrupt Practices* to be prevented?

The *Cavalcade* attending the SHERIFFS, was not unknown neither to the sagacious NAHUM as we may see by his 1st Verse, Chap. ii. *The Chariots shall rage in the Streets, they shall jostle one another in the Broad-ways.* The Cockpit, Whitehall, and New Palace-Yard, cannot be more lively described even at this Time.

The assembling this *riotous Mob*, was very well hinted at by one of the afore-mentioned Prophets ZEPHANIAH, in his 1st Verse of his xith Chap. undoubtedly fore-knowing of the CITY Members Intentions, where he says, *Gather yourselves together, O Nation, not desir'd, BEFORE THE DECREE BRING FORTH:* Which plainly alludes to their *opposing* a Bill, before they could *understand* what it was to be.

HABBAKUK was also acquainted with the Discontents that have been *industriously* fomented by our *weekly Libels*, when he takes this Notice in his first Chap. Verse the 6th. *For lo I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty Nation, which shall march thro' the Breadth of the Land, to possess the Dwelling Places, that are not theirs.*

ISAIAH, in his xlvith Chap. Verse 12th, describes minutely the *very* Persons who were *stirr'd up*, and followed the Directions of those *Firebrand Writers*. *Hearken unto me ye Stout-hearted, that are far from RIGHTEOUSNESS.* Had their Names been set down by the Prophet, it could not be a stronger Mark.

In the 10th Verse of his xxivth Chap. he also says, *The CITY is in Confusion, every House shall be shut up, that no Man may come in. 'Tis known several of 'em threatned to leave off their Occupations: And by the Words no Man to come in, is undoubtedly meant, no Officer of Excise.*

The scandalous, nay even treasonable Discourses against the present ROYAL FAMILY (the common Topic in all the City Clubs and Coffee-Houses) he intimates in his 10th Verse of the same Chapter; *And they shall scoff at the KINGS, and the PRINCES shall be a Scorn unto them.* Is not this incontestably true?

The Tumults from particular Parts of the Town, are also foreseen by the righteous ZEPHANIAH, as may be gathered from his first Chap. Verse 10th, in the following Words; *And it shall come to pass in that Day, that there shall be a Cry from the Fishgate, and a Howling from the second, and a great Crashing from the Hills.* I presume by the FISHGATE, no Body will dispute with me, that *Billingsgate* is notoriously typify'd. That by a Cry from the SECOND (which, beyond all Controversy, must be LUDGATE, tho' vulgarly we term the TEMPLE-Gate, which is certainly the first, only a Bar) is mark'd the Common Council of FARRINDON-WITHOUT's, coming down in a riotous Manner to *Westminster*. The Crashing from the Hills are the several Detachments of *Mutineers*, SNOW, COLLEDGE, DOWGATE, and ADDLE Hills. This surely is so plain, *that he that runs may read.*

Again HABBAKUK takes Notice of two particular Speakers in Parliament on this Occasion, when in the 11th Verse of his xith Chap. he says, *The Stone shall cry out of the Wall, and the Beam out of the Timber shall answer it.* Now it is very well known, that a learned Lawer of the County of *Essex* (the last Syllable of whose Name is STONE) must and does come within this Description. Then by a Figure of Speech, so frequently made Use of in Scripture, the BEAM plainly denotes a Vessel, or some kind of SHIPPING. This, I presume, needs no farther Comment.

The general Complaint that has for many Years been justly subsisting against the Brewings and prejudicial Adulterations of the VINTNERS, was particularly remark'd by JOEL, Chap. the first, Verse 5th, *Awake ye Drunkards and weep, howl all ye Drinkers of Wine, because of the new Wine* (Heb. or true) *for it is cut off from your Lips.* Plainly alluding to the Permission that is allow'd the Dealers in that Liquor of *mixing, sophisticating, &c.* and the poisoning their Customers.

ISAIAH in his xxivth Chap. Verse 7th and 9th, says the same Thing. *All the merry-hearted do sigh. They shall not drink Wine*

Wine *with a Song*; *their Wine shall be mix'd with Water, or Cyder, or Spirits, or Arsenick, or whatever it shall please the Vintner to make Use of.*

In the 11th Verse of the same Chapter, he observes, *There is a crying for Wine in the Streets*: That is to say, for *Neat Wine*; a Want experienced by most Company daily.

The Mobbish Proceedings upon the Bills being laid aside, was not unknown to ZEPHANIAH, as we may read in the 12th Verse of his 1st Chapter; *And it shall come to pass at that Time, that I will search JERUSALEM with Candles: a Day of the Trumpet, and Alarm against the high Towers.*

Now by *searching with Candles* (as it is in the *Hebrew*) we are likewise to understand *Illuminations*, according to the Information my learned Cambridge Friend before-mentioned, is pleased to give me. The *high Towers*, no doubt, imply the great Ministers of State.

The Manner in which *some of the Merchants* within Doors opposed the *intended* inland Duty, is exactly painted by ISAIAH in his 50th Chapter and 7th Verse: *For I shall have Help, therefore will I not be confounded: I have set my Face like a Flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed.* Glorifying in the *Invectives* and *Menaces* they threw out in their Harangues.

I could cite many more Texts to the same Purpose, but fearing I have already been too tedious, shall conclude with the Words of the Preacher in his 28th Chapter: *One Man beareth Hatred to another, and doth he seek Pardon from the Lord?*

Let us then, my Countrymen, return to a Spirit of *Meekness* and *brotherly Love* one to another, remembering what is said by the same holy Person; *A sinful Man disquieteth Friends, and maketh Debate among them that be at Peace.*

P. S. Since my beginning this small Treatise, I am not a little pleased to find that the Opinion I was of in my Introduction, has not been wholly disapprov'd. Tho' *Phlebotomy* has not been made use of to allay the Ferment of some *unruly Temperaments*, yet I find *low Diet* is prescribed to a few, which I doubt not but, join'd to a nipping *northern Air* for a Time, will allay the *Heat* and *Boiling* of Bloods overheated by too much *Affluence*. And as the late *Complaints* likewise greatly affected several *Ladies of Fashion*, my Wife (who is a *Seventh Daughter of a Fourteenth Son*) is very skilful in the Cure of all *Disorders* in the *Tongue*, and attends constantly at home for the Benefit of her own Sex and Family.

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